

Remarks

Claims 1-62 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 36, 46-48, 50, 51 and 60 have been amended. No new matter has been added. No new claims have been added. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on February 2, 2005 in conjunction with discussions concerning copending applications 09/916,288 and 09/916,330. During the interview, deficiencies in the Whitehead reference were discussed in relation to subject matter of the present application. Namely, it was discussed that Whitehead fails to disclose a client application server(s) that requests that an application properties server provide values to populate various application configuration variables configuring the application to operate. It was emphasized that Whitehead teaches a registry system that records the locations of various software components across a distributed network. The registry server acts as a broker, creating an interface between nodes and binding the software components to the requesting client application. It was discussed that such software components are not variable values used by applications to configure the application but that software components are chunks of code that provide applications with access to additional functions and services. It was further discussed that the CMS of Whitehead receives requests and determines whether a requested component is available as opposed to responding to requests by providing configuration variable values to the client applications. The Examiner requested that such clarifying arguments be submitted in writing.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-9, 12-15, 18, 25-38, 40,41, 46-51, 53-58 and 60-61 have been provisionally rejected for obvious type double-patenting over claims 1-41 of App. 09/916,330 and over claims 1-41 of App. 09/916,228. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 46, 47, 50, 51 and 60 of the present application from which the rejected claims depend, include recitations to configuration data values that are presented to an application when the application requests those values and where those values serve to configure the application to function in a given manner. Claims 1-41 of the '330 application include recitations to data validation services which are entirely different than application configuration, as data validation does not deliver data from storage to a client application but instead determines whether the data is valid relative to a reference for what the data should be and returns either an indication of valid data or invalid data rather than returning a requested configuration variable value. Thus, application configuration as recited in the present claims is not obvious relative to the data validation of the claims 1-41 of the '330 application.

Additionally, the application configuration services as recited in claims 1-9, 12-15, 18, 25-38, 40, 41, 46-51, 53-58 and 60-61 of the present invention are entirely different from the data manipulation services which involve the change of data from an initial form to a form other than the initial form for use by an application and returning the changed data as recited in the claims of the '288 application. Configuration information as recited in the present claims pertains to data values that are presented to an application when the application requests those values and where those values serve to configure the application to function in a given manner. As discussed above, manipulation as recited in the claims of the '288 application refers to changing data from one form to another form, which is entirely different than looking up a value for a variable and returning that value that has been requested as is set forth in the present claims. Thus, configuration data as recited in the present claims is not obvious relative to data manipulation of the claims of the '288 application.

Therefore, the double patenting rejections based on the '330 and '288 applications should be withdrawn.

112 Rejections

Claims 36 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite due to the improper use of a trademark to identify a type of database. The claims have been changed to strike the trademark ORACLE and now use the adjective

“relational” to describe the database. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 36 and 48 should now be withdrawn.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-10, 15-22, 26-28, 35-44, 46-51 and 59-60 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Whitehead et al (US Pat 6,085,030). Independent claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 46, 47, 50, 51 and 60 now recite elements not disclosed by Whitehead. Namely, each of these amended claims recites similar elements not disclosed by the cited reference.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 46-47, 50, 51 and 60 by stating that Whitehead teaches all of the elements. The Office Action equates a “component” or “component data structure” in Whitehead to “configuration variable information” or “configuration variable data”, in the above referenced claims. The Office Action also equates the Component Management Server **340** of FIG. 3 to the application properties server in claims 1, 2, 26, 35, 46, and 50. Furthermore, the Office Action equates the Component Registry **350** to the configuration data schema of claims 26, 35, 51 and 60. However, it should be noted that there are several fundamental differences between what Whitehead teaches and the claims.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, at least one client application server having an application, including configuration variables, that configures the application for operation. Claim 1 further recites an application properties server accessible by at least one of said client application servers, said application properties server coupled to at least one said client application server for providing configuration variable data in response to a request from at least one said client application server.

Whitehead fails to disclose all of these elements. Whitehead teaches a server system running a plurality of protocol languages **340, 312, 332** and a means for centrally storing the location addresses of software components located across widely disbursed network locations **350** (See Col. 7, l. 7-15). As a first significant difference, the “components” in Whitehead consist of substantial portions of software code (or “objects”) that reside in different nodes of a network. In other words, Whitehead teaches a directory of component locations which is contrary to the amended claim 1. In

particular, a configuration variable data as recited in claim 1 is not a component as described in Whitehead but is instead one or more values that pertain to one or more configuration variables that configure how the application that has requested the variable value functions. Whitehead fails to disclose receiving any request for such configuration variable values, and Whitehead fails to disclose returning such configuration variable values to the client applications. Therefore, Whitehead fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1, and claim 1 is allowable over Whitehead for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, the component registry in Whitehead responds to a client request by locating a heterogeneous component on the network for the client. The registry offers the component to the client through the CMS 340 by providing a direct communications interface between the client's application and the component being sought. (See Abstract; Col. 4, 1:55-65). The registry does not directly provide the component to the client. Whitehead also teaches a method of duplicating or borrowing objects and binding them to software at other nodes that request them in order to function on the network. (Col. 8, 1:2-15). Thus Whitehead is not concerned with centrally storing, updating and delivering configuration variable data to end user applications and fails to teach the recitations of amended claim 1 for these additional reasons.

Additionally, claim 1 further recites wherein the request is provided from the at least one client application server to the application properties server via a command line interface that includes one or more switches to control how the requested data is returned, the one or more switches including at least a hashkey switch specifying that the configuration variables are to be returned in a hashtable. Whitehead also fails to disclose that the request for the object is via a command line interface from an application where the command line interface includes one or more switches and where the one or more switches include a hashkey. Further, Whitehead fails to disclose that data is returned from an application properties server to a client application server in the form of a hashtable based on the hashkey being present in the command line interface. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over Whitehead for this additional reason.

Other independent claims including claims 2, 15, 26, 35, 46, 47, 50, 51 and 60 that are also rejected as being anticipated by Whitehead include similar recitations to those discussed above for claim 1 that relate to the configuration variable information or

data being entirely different than the “components” of Whitehead. Therefore, these claims and the dependent claims 3-14, 16-25, 27-34, 36-45, 48-49, 52-59 and 61-62 that depend from the allowable base claims are also allowable over Whitehead for this same reason.

103 Rejections

Claims 11-14, 23-25, 29-34, 45, 52-58 and 61-62 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitehead in view of Bahrs (US Pat 6,782,508). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As noted above for the §102 rejections, claims 11-14, 23-25, 29-34, 45, 52-58 and 61-62 depend from one of allowable independent claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 36, 46-48, 50, 51 and 60 and are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons

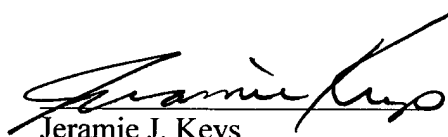
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-62 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeramie J. Keys
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC
P.O. Box 71355
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355
(404) 849.2093